

1-1-1864

Diary of Orville E. Babcock, January-March 1864

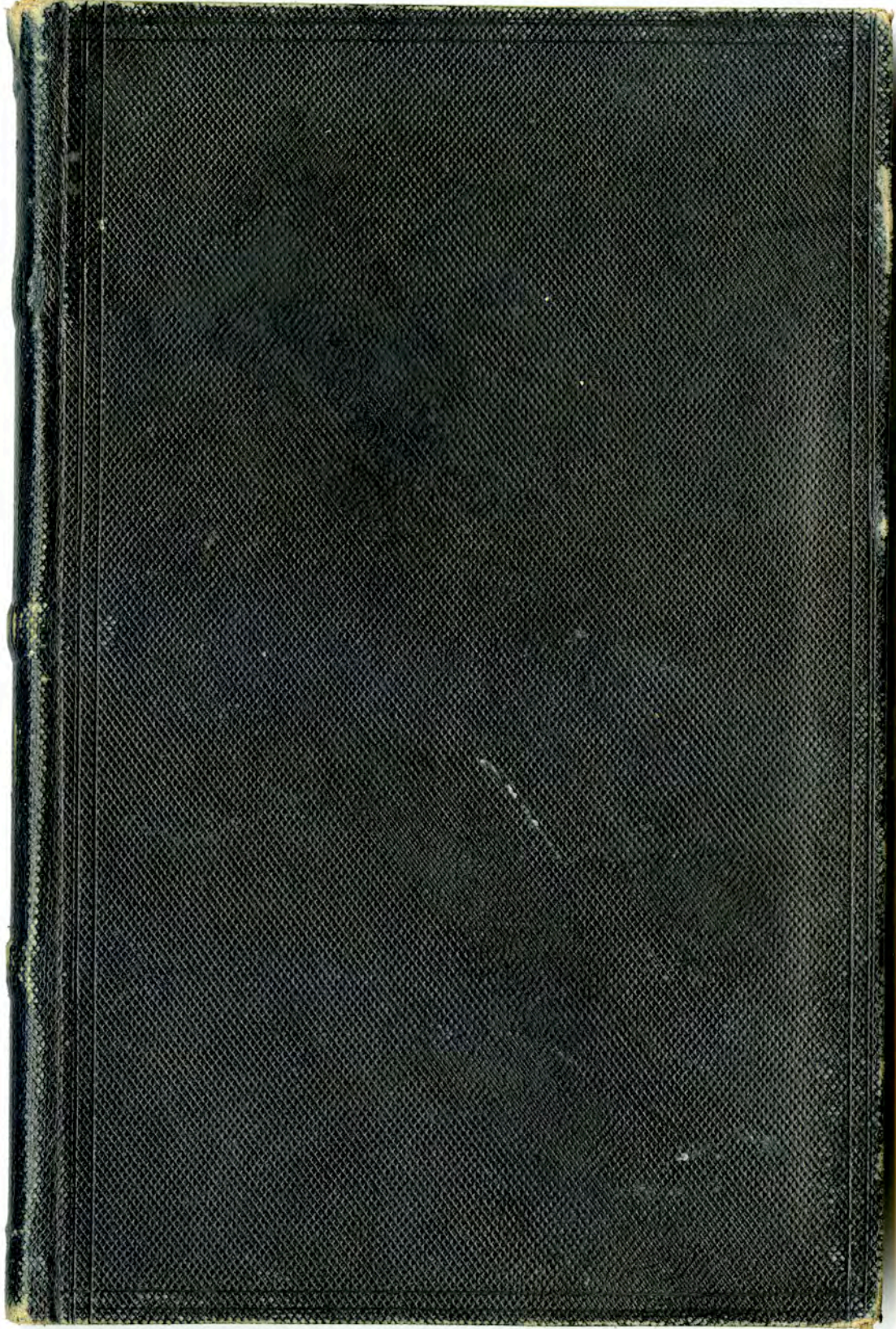
Orville Elias Babcock

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May Hill
43rd St

John Clemens
Co G 48th Pa

Private

Oberlin

Stevl 64th & Chief Eng. 9th Me.

Daily Record of events

Private

Strawberry Plains E. Tenn.
January 1st/1864

Cold windy day. Men did not work on the Rail Road Bridge on account of cold, ice and being New Year day.

Men did no work on the Fortifications on account of the cold weather.

Detail sent to unload the pontoon boats sent to this place. So cold they could not complete the work and another detail was sent.

Very poor apologies for soldier.

Col Bowen injured severely by fall of his horse, but not thought dangerous.

Gen Grant telegraphed that he shall be up on the 2nd.

The state of the army truly alarming. Men suffering for want of clothing, and suitable and sufficient rations.

No sugar coffee and many
other rations - and none
in the country.

Animals dying daily for
want of forage shoes &c.
Many suffering with disease
such as foot rot, glanders &c.
Some great exertions are
necessary to keep this army
alive until Spring.

January 3rd 1864.

Weather remained very cool.
A little progress was made
on the bridge and fortifica-
tions. The bridge delayed
for want of logs to have
the long timber from the woods.
Attempted to get them
across the river, but very
slow work - water rising
very fast. Rope to the Ferry
broken. Men seem inclined
to refuse to work on

account of the cold.
Reports from nearly every
Bnyade, Div & Corps commander
stating the destitution of their
Command. Small Pox or varioloid
said to have appeared among
the Regts of the 9th A.C.
Gen Grant did not come up
from Knoxville as promised.
Gen Shurtleff down from Mossy
Creek.

Col Bowen much better still
very sore. Though no bad
symptoms, I am attending to
his duties.

At last received 20 axes with
which to build the works and
the pontoon bridge.

Col Palmer reports axes in
the hands of the Quarter Master
Dept. &c

No mail - no news -

Sunday Jan 9th 1864.
Did not work on the
fortifications it being Sunday.
Work on the bridge contin-
ued slowly.

Major Genl Grant & Major Genl Foster
visited Genl Parke about noon
and returned to Knoxville
in the evening.

Genl Grant desired Genl P.
to move his command over
the river, but the limited
capacity of the ferry and the
state of our men's clothing
and the state of our trans-
portation, I think changed
his mind.

Reports continue to arrive
stating the condition of the
command.

Genl Nelson and Col Conistak
were with Genl Grant.

An accident at the
Ferry during the night
resulted in the death of

five men drowned - and a
loss of six mules and a
wagon - Not a safe thing
to trust at night.

Col Bowen some better.
Some mail from home -
Weather moderate - some
snow during the evening
- River still rising.

January 14th 1864.

Rainy wet day, but little
progress made on any of
the works. The bridge progress-
ing slowly.

Orders came to put the
Corps into cabins as well
as we could for no active
operation would be made
against the enemy before a
supply of clothing - and
subsistence could be secured.
Several of some of the
saw mills in this vicinity

The river commenced to fall
though but slowly.

Col Bowen improving well
though a sufferer.

Telegram from Capt
Van Ness.

Rainy bad night -

January 2nd 64

But little change in the
state of affairs.

Gen Grant and staff
come on their way to Ky
via Cumberland Gap.

No news - orders to put
the men into the huts as
soon as crossing of the
river can be effected.

Work on the fortification
progress very slowly.

Gen Foster says Gen Manson
shall make his men do
the work given them.

He promises to put several

mills in order.

Gen Foster directs the
Medical Dept to turn over to
Quartermaster Dept 1000 blankets
to issue to the destitute
soldiers. They are to be issued
pro rata to the command.
Wrote a long letter to Mrs.
Gen Grant and staff took
dinner with me. or rather
lunch.

Col B doing well. Surgeon
Hilder came to see him
and remained with me all
night, cold night, little
snow.

January 6th 64.

Walked down to the RR Bridge
before breakfast - Good
progress on the bridge. Though
the extreme cold retards the
work considerably.
Some progress on the

fortifications. Reinforcements
progressing.

Mr Bell & Mr Valentine. Have
charge of the work.

Weather continued cold all
day. Water in the river
falling slowly.

General Seymour is enlisting
and receive their marching
orders. Gen Foster decides
that all officers ^{now} ~~se~~ enlisting
will be mustered out. I
think it an erroneous decision
- one that will do much
harm, and one wholly un-
intended by the Regt.

Communication received
from Comd'g Officer of "Rebel"
Force in East Tenn. to Comd'
Officer of US Force E. Tenn.
Sent to Knoxville per
Courier - 9 P.M.

Communication from
Gen Milcox about 11 A.M.

Jan 7th 1864.

Snowed a little making the
progress on the bridge quite slow.
I walked over the construction
but not willing to walk back.
So extremely cold that the men
cannot do a days work, and
each rope that becomes wet
freezes at once. The work on
the fortifications progressed more
favorably, though but few
men at work.

Gen Milcox confirms the loss
of 200 men, 2 Mt Artillery & one 3 inch
ordnance gun.

Citizen come in from Morristown
who assures us that the
sufferings of ~~the~~ the Rebels are
much greater than ours, and
that the Rail Road has not
been surprised this side of Bristol
- though they are at work at
it. He reports Gen Longstreets
intention is to move back into
Tn. as soon as we press him

and eventually to join
Bray's Army again. He says
Aurill destroyed a great many
stores intended for the use
of this Rebel Army.

Longstreet's communication to
Gen Foster was concerning the
distribution of the President's Pro-
clamation in his Army. He says
if it is to offer peace why not
send them through him. I. says
any man who deserts under the
proclamation is of no use to
him (Longstreet). Lucid reasoning
- how about a man shot dead
with a rifle ball? Had we not
better send all our ammunition
through Gen Longstreet.

Gen Foster sent answer to day.
Col Brown doing quite well.
Snow during the night - though
scarcely enough to cover the
ground.

Health very fine

January 8th 1864
Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans.
Clear cold day. Snow
some six inches deep - not warm
enough to melt it. Still at work
on the Fortification and the
RR Bridge. Commenced laying the
track on the bridge, and planking
solid as we lay it.

Gen Foster telegraphed Gen Parker
to come to Knoxville. He left
on train accompanied by Capt
Lydie (Phil). No news from
any source, excepting the
24th straggled into our camp.
That contained but little news.

Weather continued fine
night quite cool. running
ice in the river.
Secured some forage by
sending boat across the
river. Lt Fletcher obtained and
reports sawmills and lumber
to be sawed quite plenty.
Men making rope make

good progress.

January 9th 64.

Snow still on the ground. Ice running all day in the river. Ferry boat worked with great difficulty. Bridge doing well. Shall be delayed for want of plank to complete the road way. Genl Porter still in Knoxville. Elliott reports the position of the enemy - Col Brown doing well - though not down -

No mail or news of importance. Tompkins down from Cross Roads but brought some of the fluid corn. Night very cool, much like a winter night though cold not so intense. I find my tent very comfortable indeed - more so than the men occupied in the houses.

Health very fine - Letter from Hutchinson. He did not get his leave as he expected.

Telegraphed to Engineer Bureau for instruments Transit & Level.

No clothing arrived yet - men complaining less than they did in some stormy weather. Animals still dying for want of food.

Sunday Jan 10th 64.

No work on the fortifications being Sabbath.

Work on RR bridge progressed finely - the plank will delay at some time. Though I think we can get cars over on Tuesday.

Genl Porter remained at Knoxville - leaving signing of papers to me.

Surgeon Wilder came back from Knoxville, Dearborn and Porttett came down from the

Cover Roads. took lunch
with us. The report of the
Comm known as Spiritus Frumenti
came down from Tompkins,
a very good quality.
Genl Bowen down to lunch
with us. seemed quite well.
but felt the worse for his
exercise.

Genl Ashall and Capt
Goodspeed took dinner with us.
Clear cold day though sunny.
The morning so much that
the ferry cannot be used.
Health good.

No news from any source.

Monday Jan 11th 64.

Genl Parker still at Knoxville.
Nearly completed the RR bridge.
but little work done at the
there being so much ice
in the water.

Weather clear cold. some
little snowing.

Received a mail though
no private letters - Newspaper
of the 30th no particular
news - Reported by Associated
Press of 6th 7th that Genl Banks
will return to this Dept. I
trust his staff will be mustered
out before he returns -

Genl Bowen passed a bad
night - the 10th - and quite
unwell today, but improving
- Surgeon Wilder down to
see Genl Bowen -

Received calls from Mr Brown
and "Genl Lyb" quite pleasant
people.

No news from the enemy

No complaints made of the
sufferings of the men -
clear cold weather not
as bad as stormy.

Animals still dying.
My health never better since
1861.

January 13th 1864.

Completed the bridge
for train at 1 P.M. Engine
passed over and back at
night. Not sufficient
quantity of plank to complete
the entire road-way.

Some more expected, and
hope to be able to complete
it tomorrow.

Genl Parker returned by the
Evening train. Had no settled
plan - things as well mixed
up as ever - Genl Brainerd
much out of sorts though

blaming no officer here
Steamer Dunbar fast on
the shoal below Kingston,
and river falling so fast
that no hope of getting it
off. Men soon to be on
meat alone. Some clothing
arriving though slowly.

Work on the fortifications
progresses but poorly. Men have
no notion to be able to
work. The river fordable
both above and below -
though considerable ice.

Col Brown not as well
- suffering much with his
head - Genl Slusqui remained
with Genl Parker.

But little news from or of
the enemy. Genl Longstreet
sent in communication
for Genl Foster, which was
forwarded per courier -
night worn not much
frost. Health good -

Order to send one third of
the Re-enlisting Regiment
still remaining, to report
to the Gov of the States from
which they have been sent,

Jan 13th 1862

No new orders given
to 4th & 23rd Corps to move
to Dandridge. The 9th to
come here - Gen Potter
instructed to come and select
the Camping Ground -

No work on the fortification
the detail having no
ration. Continued the
planting of the BTB bridge
though not plank enough
on hand.

Gen Sheridan about to
move his command to the
front of Dandridge - to see
if he cannot drive off

the rebel cavalry said to be
foraging in that vicinity.
The steamer still aground
and no indication when
she will be off.

Men suffering for want of
shoes & clothing - No better
arrangement about forage
for our animals -

Received a present of a
mule from Capt Milburn Goodspeed
Not a very nice mule but
still with good life and
young.

No news from the
enemy.

Col Brown better to-morrow
night -

Pleasant day but not
warm enough to melt the
snow.

Health very fine -

January 14th 1864.

Warm sunny day though
snow not all melted.
Portion of the 23rd & 4th A.C.
crossed the river and moved
towards Doindridge. The men
and horses crossing on the
Rail Road Bridge, wading fording
and across the Ferry.

The men looked quite well
not apparently suffering for
clothing. Went with Genl Parker
to New Market & Mossy Creek.
Road fine except for smooth
shod horses, like our own.
Reached Mossy Creek at
1 P.M. Found Genl Steyer's
head moved with his com-
mand towards Doindridge.
Col. Moore with brigade of
infantry in command, with
200 Cavalry in his front.

The River of Mossy Creek
contains only a few House
Rail Road bridges.

The rebels partially destroyed
the bridge across the Creek,
Engine with one car arrived
soon after we reached there.
We made our observation and
sent our horse back with the
ordnance, and came down on the
train - arriving about 4 P.M.
A pleasant trip - though a little
tedious. Met Capt. Courson - who
had just inspected the Cavalry, and
represented in a deplorable condi-
tion, men and horse.

The country to Mossy Creek is
hilly, though fine looking for
farming. The village of New
Market is quite picturesque
situated and rather a nice
little place. No news from
towards Doindridge. Genl Foster
sent word that he would be
up on the morning train,
requesting Genl Granger to be
present. The 23rd Corps leaving
suspended the progress of the work.

very small. Indeed none from there
own no details.

Col Bowen not well as we
hoped - low spirit -

Health fine - River still
falling - night warm some
little rain.

January 18th 64

Remained about the quarters
all day. no news. Troop still
moving towards Drindridge.
Gen Foster did not come up as
he expected. Having missed the
train, Gen Granger came to
meet Gen Foster. Gens Potter -
Granger and Potter R.B. went
to Knoxville to see Gen
Foster. But few reports of
any kind - Gen Sherman ordered
to move down to the Flat
Creek. The 9th Corps to move to
Drindridge this place. and

to put one brigade on the
South side of the river. The
rest to be on the ~~South~~ North
side - and to guard all the
fords - on the river -

No news from the East.
Gen Miller reached Drindridge.
Premier that Palmer had retaken
the train of 18 wagons taken
by Vance near Leesville
- and taken Vance (Gen) and
a handsome party of prisoners.
This proved to be true.

Saw some desertion and some
citizens who reported that
Palmer had gone after their
train and thought he would
take them so. The rebel story
was true once.

Weather warm and pleasant.

Jan 16th 64.

Gen Miller arrived to take the
Command of the 9th Corps.

Gen Porter, Potter and Emory
returned from Knoxville - all
in good spirit - Gen Porter
concluded to move to the
front - or at least to go
out to Drumsidge. Gen Emory
thought I should better go with
him but I did not think it
necessary, and Gen Porter did
not express a desire to have me
do so - that is he simply
made some hints about it.
- but I thought some order would
be much more appropriate.
Gen Potter feeling very badly,
thought my remarks had
been the cause of relieving
him by remark at Hooker's
Camp.

Gen Miller and all of his
staff stayed with us over
night - Deshorm, Brooks

Potter, Leodington & Holbrook
went to Knoxville on the train.
Gen Vance and two officers
arrived under Capt Holt to be
taken to Knoxville. Gen Vance is
a brother of Governor Vance, a
good looking man - and to
all appearance a well informed
man. He accounted for his
capture by saying that the
troops were supposed to be his
own as many of their troops
had on our uniform - a
gross punishment.

Col Brown came down to
lunch with us feeling quite
well, but imprudently came
down again at night and
soon over did one of those severe
head aches - uncomfortable night.
Health fine - no work on the
Fortifications.

Slight cavalry skirmish near
Drumsidge - no report.

January 17th.

All quiet until toward
8 P.M. Gen Milcox moved his
camp across the river to
near the old camp of Gen
Wanson. Gen Foster appointed
Post Comdt. and made his
Hd Qrs just across the bridge
at the house. The approach
to the bridge making good progress.
No report from Dismalridge -

At about five p.m. telegraph
operator notified me of very
heavy firing in direction of
Dismalridge. Gen Wanson replied
from Mossy Creek that a heavy
force had been fighting since
4.20. I notified Gen Milcox -
I had received instructions to
march to the sound of the
cannon with the 9th Corps
leaving one Regiment to
guard the bridge. I
telegraphed instructions to
Gen Wanson and sent

telegram to Gen Porter. The
latter were never received
by him or at least never
answered. I notified Gen
Spear and directed him to
to picket M^c Kenney's ford.
No notice from Gen Porter -
at 8 P.M. dispatched a courier
to him - who was instructed
to return or send back at
once on finding Gen Porter.
1.40^{am} Gen Wanson telegraphed
that he had received orders to
fall back on Strawberry Plains
and asked a train of cars to
bring sick and wounded from
New Market. I forwarded the
dispatch at once to Gen Foster.
The 9th Corps ordered to be ready
to march at day break -
Passed a night of great un-
easiness, not hearing from
Gen Porter at all.
I was much afraid that
we had suffered a defeat

and perhaps of a very serious nature, and Genl Manson falling back confirmed it apparently.

Genl Parke received a long dispatch from Genl Burnside, the dispatch was in cypher. I sent it to Knoxville and had it translated - The 9th Corps to be recruited to 50,000 men. Hd Quarters in N.Y. and to be assigned to a special duty by the War Dept.

Col Brown not at all quite well - I have some fear for his recovery, but yet I cannot imagine anything but safety. Mr Valentine takes care of him - and suits the time so well -

My health fine -

Jan 16th 64.

Quite an eventful day for the army of East Tenn. orders for marches and counter-marches all the morning. Had the 9th Corps ready to move out to meet Genl Parke, and gave the order, but before the Corps moved Genl Shermans advance came in and I suspended the order fearing that I should block up the road - about 10 or 11 am Gens Sheridan and Elliot came in and gave us the true account of the affair much easing my mind. It seems that Genl Parke finding himself in a false position at Dairdridge and finding the enemy in force with all arms. concluded to fall back to Strawberry Plain and give the necessary orders. Genl Manson fell back in haste. leaving some sick at New Market, and when the

train he telegraphed for arrival
no troops of any account were
at the place, a rare piece of good
luck that the engine was not
captured. Gen Spear reported a
force of Cavalry crossing the
river at Dyers Ferry, and that
he Spear had no forage at
all. The men were but little
better off. Gen Sturges came in
and went to Knoxville to
report to Gen Foster, and see
about taking the cavalry to
the South side of the river,
where they can be fed. Gen
Sturges seemed to think the
Cavalry was used up.
Gen Foster telegraphed at about
8 P.M. that he had information
that Longstreet had been re-
inforced by one div from
Evans Corps, and that he was
marching on Knoxville direct
and that Morgan is on
his way up from Dalton

Gen Porter ordered to send all
heavy trains to Knoxville, all
the sick and wounded also
and make preparations to destroy
completely the bridge at this
place. Bad luck seems to
attend all of my bridges.
I issued the necessary orders
before Gen Porter's return and
reported to him as soon as he
came in.

Gen Cox & Gen Melick
put into camp across the
river and received orders to
move in the morning. A
cold bitter night it was, snow
fell before morning. No reports
came in during the night.
I think the thing a big score
though disposition may prompt
Longstreet to make a move to
either gain us by surprise or to
capture us if a dash can
accomplish it. I think it will
be a failure on his part.

except to for as it cuts us
off from all forage in the
valleys of the French River &
Tributaries. Either we must find
our forage in Blount & Kure Co
or we must turn towards
Gods Country.

My health is fine - and though
busy keep feeling well.

Jan 19th 64.

Very little excitement during the
day. No report of an advance of
the enemy. Gen Cox's and
Gen Miliken's commands come
in but very hard work to do
so. The ground not frozen enough
to bear the men. But just enough
to deceive. I think but little
material was lost coming
back from Soudridge though
a good many pieces of their
were burned at Mossy Creek
- and some of the wounded
at New Market. Two trains
came up during the day to
take the artillery without
horses and spare ordnance &
ordnance stores etc with the
sick and wounded to Max-
ville. But being small
trains they could not take
all necessary to be sent.
The cavalry marched towards
Maxville to cross the River

to feed and watch the
movements of the enemy.
No excitement, Ammunition
beginning of starvation and
exhaustion. I see no way
but they must all die.

Col Bowen no better
he seems to grow weaker
all the time. I don't
move him to Knoxville. Though
I shall do so soon as I
can.

Cold now wind during
the day. freezing but little
at night.

January 20th 64.

Passed the day in the usual
manner. Two trains of cars sent
up during the day. Not all of the
artillery yet moved that have no
horses - Brigade of 23rd Corps sent
out towards Newmarket. to secure
some wheat found a rebel
picket and skirmished with them.
They followed slowly after our
men. Lt Brockert went out with the
communication for Gen Longstreet
and has not returned - and some
fears that the enemy intend some
movement. Various rumors but I
think of no account. All the
men brought across the river about
2pm - and disposition made
to take up and destroy the RR bridge.
Gen Milles come over the river
A cor ordered for Col Bowen
to be here before morning.
Health fine. Weather very fine.

Jan 21st.

Continued the destruction of the RR bridge about 2 am. Put all the plank but about 200 feet (woodway) into the river. sent nearly all the flat boats down the river. sent my own men down on a flat boat with their tools. sent the team down the stream. Col Bowen went away in the train about day light feeling quite well.

Could not find all the timber and ammunition, and some 40 PM wagons - some stone left behind. Lt Broughton returned about 8 am. had been detached by the enemy about six miles from Strawberry Plains towards Strindridge. He said the enemy cavalry were moving towards Strawberry Plains -

Our pickets all brought across safely. The enemy appeared about 9 am. showing quite

a force of cavalry, and in about one hour a battery of artillery. They opened on our men. But Gittinger drove them away with his battery.

We moved our Rd Co. to McMillan on Flat Creek 3 miles - train soon up there. but not safe to send it to S.P. so put on some guns belonging to Gen Granger and a small lot of clothing and sent it back. Enemy appeared at all the fords down as far as Armstrong Ford. Though nothing but cavalry appeared. The 28th corps had reached within 5 miles of Knoxville. Col Cameron with two regiments remained at Flat Creek vicinity. Gen Milles destroyed the property left and fell back to Flat Creek about 2 am. Got up at 11.30. struck our camp and moved the train towards Knoxville. Rather a pleasant time no good sleep for two nights. Reason that a heavy force was

crossing at Dyer Ferry and
that locality. Did not put
confidence in the report.
Beautiful weather - clear light
night only cool enough for
a frost. Health fine.

Jan 22nd

Took up the march about 4 am
left Gen Miller and staff at Hot
Creek - men of 9th Corps hauling
the two Janes six pr gun -
Rode one to Gen Cox's HQ at
at Mr Lora five miles from
Knoxville. Took breakfast. Then
rather cool but still the

roads though rough were much
better than when so muddy.
All the train moving along very
finely. A train of cars came
out 8 miles and took the two
guns, and anything else that
was stuck ^{in mud}. Hotter forays & wagons &
Enemy cavalry still following. Though
not skirmishing to any extent.
Enemy made a diversion to our
left and captured some 800 head
of beef cattle just in from Ky.
- a gross mistake on the part of
some one not sending the cattle to
the point named Beaver Ridge.
Gen Miller ordered to cover
Armstrong's Force. Gen Cox to
cover RR to Louisville & Gen
Foster sent for Gen Porter to
come into the city. I met in
with him. Gen Foster appointed
me act Chief Eng of the Dept and
authorized to issue orders in
his name. Instructed to take
charge of all bridges especially

the parlour bridge

Also instructed to go with
Genl Porter and post the
23rd Corps all ground guards -
pickets &c.

Our house had been taken so
I slept with Capt Wright in
Capt Marsh's office -

Mother as pleasant as a
May day. Health very fine.
Genl Brown stood his journey
well -

Genl Lomax has no
idea of besieging this place -

January 28th 1864.

Rode with Genl Porter to
Lyon House. Thence across the
country to the Scott Valley Road
- from there to the Washington
Attainment road - and
back to town by the Scott Valley
road. Located the Ground Guards
on that side of town. All the
Ground Guards to come from the
23rd Corps - which is to form
the Garrison of the works if any
is needed. The 9th Corps to go
about five miles below the
city to guard the river and
picket the Kingston Road.

A very pleasant day and country
to ride through. This country
is one perfect net work of
roads.

No quarters assigned to
us so I slept in Marsh's office
again. Genl Porter at last
wakened up to the necessity of
some quarters for us.

No news. Genl Parker informed me that Genl Foster had received orders to send the 9th Corps East. and it would go soon as it is dust or something to that amt. Fletcher making some progress with the bridge.

Order to send all animals to Ky.

Col Brown not as well. My health fine.

Sent order to Genl Cox to put his men.

Jan 24th 64.

Sunday and a beautiful day it is. Went with Genl. Parker, Miller & Farnow to put the 9th Corps and to establish the Bond Road on the Clinton Road. Went down the RR about five

miles when we put the 9th Corps. Genl Parker then returned and Capt Lydig McCall and myself struck across country to reach the Clinton pike. We passed over a beautiful country. fine farms. After a ride of about 17 miles we found ourselves back where we started from. with all troops posted. The Cavalry is up about the French Broad country, while one division of the 4th Corps is at Morristown - the other at Lenoir Loudon & Kingston. So the troops are in a position for the winter. Forage very scarce - indeed, no more yet - so I slept with Murch again. Have the promise of a house in the morning.

Called on Genl Nelson - made arrangements to visit the line of works about the town -

Col V B a little better.

My health fine

January 25th

Rode around the line of
works on this side of the
river with Genl Nelson. Located a
few new works and determined on
some new line of rifle pits or
infantry parapets
placing the batteries within and
placing the line in such directions
that the force can be flanked by
these guns. The work being
done by Genl Nelson is very neat
and very durable but I think
better to complete the front first.
I met the Quarter Master who
of course must object to any
thing that does not amenable for
him there - Saw Schenck who
was in charge of mill who has
received positive orders not to
send for provisions etc.

Saw Col Brown - not as well -

At last found a house - a nice
place to live though pretty well
away from the center of the

city at a Mr McPherson
A beautiful warm sunny day.
Health very fine.
No news -

January 26th 1864.

Made the circuit of the works
on the south side of the river
with Genl Nelson & Genl Lee - called on
the points to occupy - and ordered
Col Cameron to cut down the
trees on his left.

Genl Foster visited the bridge and
passed here with Fletcher. all
our work suspended. The Quarter
Master must have his way of course
- Called on Genl Porter and had
a long chat. Called on Genl Foster
three times at last found him

awoke. He took back what he
had said to Fletcher. and said
my orders should be obeyed,
and told me to put my work
along. He informed me that
he expected to go East in a few
days on sick leave.

He said he expected me to
go to London and Kingston to
locate work there also.
He seemed like myself to think
that we are too far up the
valley. He suggested that I should
hang up my memoir. a little
selfish on his part I think.

Col Brown feeling better. We
have a nice location and getting
it well cleared up -
No particular news -
Letter from home.
No tooth pain - some tooth ache.

Jan 27th 64.
Examined an invention of
a Loyal Firm - to destroy the
R.R. a foolish thing.
Went with Gen Nelson and located a
battery to enclose the R.R. on the
north side of Ft. Sanders.
Rode over the river to see to the
wagon bridge. ordered them to
raise the Emb. 2 feet. The work is
well done but it will take at
least 25 days to complete the bridge.
Ordnance bridge no better.

Weather as fine as possible.
It seems almost unaccountable
for January.

Col Brown feeling quite
well. Suffering myself considerably
with tooth ache.

No news. some few letters our
from home, no very late papers.

January 28th 1864.

Did not ride out. Attended to a lot of paper in the office. Genl Parke came down and attended to office duty.

Collected on Col Bowen. He was not as well.

News of the fight between Genl Sturgis and the Rebels. Genl S. captured two guns - and was pursuing.

No news from Belov orders to send surplus horses and transportation away.

Beautiful day as pleasant as a May day.

No other news -
Health fine

Jan 29th 1864.

Rode over and called on Genl Faxon. did not find him in. Rumors of a defeat of Sturgis by the enemy.

Rode to the wagon bridge - Mr Carter making good progress though much delayed for want of lumber timber and other material. The Quarter Master brought to a proper bearing, so as to obey any orders about lumber and other material. Gilchrist making good progress with his engine. hopes to get it running by Wednesday.

Col Bowen some better - though not as stout as I wish he might be.

My health quite fine - my tooth-ache disappeared - Capt Fitzgerald asked a written report but I did not think it my duty to comply - so paid no attention to the matter. Weather very clear some little

Change indicating a rain -

Sunday Jan 31st 1864.

Busy Sunday but little work attended to. Sent my horses to fly under charge of Capt Worth. The little stud looked most too fine to send away but nothing but corn would spoil him.

Gen Foster sent for me to consult about the London Bridge. Whether we had better let it by contract or not

concluded to let it by
contract and to have a
permanent ^{new} bridge on
the same level of the old
bridge. Gen Foster telegraphed
to Gen I H Thomas to solicit
bids for the same.

Orders came to be prepared for
an offensive move on Fort
Longstreet. at an early date.

Most of our animals halted
and sent towards Kingston.
Gen Foster much astonished to

think Gen Grant should expect
him to move on Longstreet
with his number of men.

I suggested my going to Nash-
ville - and have a talk with
Gen Thomas and Gen Grant. He
decided to have me go on
the next boat expected at
any hour. So I made my
arrangements accordingly -
taking with me such infor-
mation of Longstreet's army

and our own as would enable
me to make the situation
well understood.

The Vicksburg returned. Steamer
announced at 9 P.M. Gen Foster
telegraphed her to wait the train
of Cox at 2 P.M.

I then made preparations to
have Col Brown taken along.

Dr Miller and Mr Valentine to
accompany him, sent for an
ambulance &c &c. Had no sleep
of account.

Could not find the
domed servants, -
but got started at last.
Pleasant night.

Feb 1st 1864,

Reached the depot with
Col B about 130 am. He
endured morning quite well.
Found a nice place in the
Corr. Had plenty of blankets.
Left Knoxville 2 am. and
reached London about 4 am.
Commenced raining before
I reached L. The steamer had
landed two miles from the
Corr. No umbrellas - no can-
age. and raining quite
hard. I at last found a small
wagon and had the two men
hitch up and put on an
old cover and put the Col
in. It rained quite hard and
we became well covered with
mud though not wet through.
The boat the Princeton is small
stern wheel, poor boat.

The only cabin a small leaky
place was given to the lot of
Scotch ladies and children

sent down the river to be
sent to Dutton.

The Coon (Davis) gave us his
berth for Col B so he was
well located. The Rebr ladies
were some of them quite handsome
and smart. I think it quite
hard to send them that way
yet it is necessary I suppose.
Met Mr Bristol & Col McCallum
on the boat.

We left London about 10 A.M.
made a call at Kingston -
The latter is a pleasantly situated
little place; The Government is building
some steamers there.

The day was delightful -
Farmers ploughing at different
points along the route.

Scenery on the River quite
beautiful - Mrs Residence
will make the Tennessee River easy
as far as the Hudson -
Col Bowen endured the ride
very finely. Tied up at night

on account of shoals and
fog. Left for Mobile Chatte-
anooga in time for the train
to Nashville the next day.

Health fine

Feb 2nd 1864

Started at five in the
morning but had to tie up
on account of the foggy.

Got off about 8 AM Scenery
in vicinity of Helgoland
very picturesque, and a
truly beautiful country.

Day very fine Col Bowen
much better - so as to be
on deck much of the time.
The trip to Chattanooga was
in all a fine one.

We arrived off Chattanooga
about 3 PM, and was full
two hours making the draw
in the pontoon bridge.
Lookout Mountain and
Missionary Ridge look very
fine from the river. Chattanooga
is well named the "Geyser Nest".

Called on Col A Foster and
found a nice place for
Col Bowen. obtained an
ambulance and by 4 PM had
him nicely located. Called on
Tony Forsyth. Guss King & Johnson
etc. Had a chat with Paul Thomas
about things at Nashville - supplying
me with something to eat etc
and a no offensive move. I
found him of the same mind
as Paul Foster.

Had a splendid time with
all the officers, drank a
little too much whisky and
went to bed well set up.
Health very fine. Found the

Kosville train would leave
at 12 M. Bob Hall came in
from Guil Hooker to see us.
Treated very kindly indeed.

Feb 3rd 1864.

Made several calls -
Saw Forsyth, Merrill, Tanning,
Porter (AP) Ogden Miller Bob Hall
+ making a large number of
Regular officers. Made arrange-
ments for Col Brown to go in
the Hospital Train tomorrow to
St. Louis. Left Chattanooga
12 M. Passed over Rolling
Stone Bridge a trestle built
of rough sticks cut in the
woods - and broad with
poles. It is 117' high - and is

carried at each end. It is
the intention of the O.M. to
put in a trestle but cannot
supply transportation for the
stuff from Louisville by
R.R. Passed through a
small portion of Al. ^{Gen} ~~then~~
and into Tenn.

Crossed the river at
Bridgeport on a trestle bridge
1300 feet long. a fine bridge,
Took supper at Tullahoma.
Passed a very uncomfortable
night though I had a seat
to sit on. Mr V - with me.
Health fine - no storm
during the night.

Feb 4th 1864

Reached Nashville about
8:30 am a tedious ride,
called at Capt. Pore's office,
Put up at the St. Cloud,
and secured a room for
us all. But on taking a
coming to the other depot
found Col. Brown had been
provided for by Christian Com-
mission and will be provided
for too.

Called on Comstock and found
Genl. Hunt in his office.

Very pleasant interview with the
Genl. told all about mother.

He informed me that Genl.
Schaffield had gone to receive
Genl. Foster - so my hurry to
get back was over.

I took dinner with Mat & Tuck.
Called on Boldy Smith. Had
a fine talk with him. God
Bless him. A fine office
may be there the command

Genl. Hunt desire namely the
A. J. P. Brown and myself
will have a chance then,
"See Poe and numerous
other friends.

After dinner Valentine's and
myself called on Brown,
and then started out for
the theatre. To hear Booth,
Met Whorton & Burroughs of Whig
at the door. Whorton took us
in - and secured us some
seats at "dead heads".

Hamlet. was performed. The
acting was pretty fine. by Booth,
not well supported.

After theatre had a supper
and a spree Genl. Booth
with us - Vol & Slept about
1 P.M. Found an urgent
invitation to a party at
my room - but did not
go, being so late.

*
Saw Genl. Stevenson & Capt. Knapp

at Albion. Paul went on
to Cheltenham to go on to
Lurgan to take command of
the 2nd Lt. Keogh remained
to bring on the horse -
Met all of Paul's friends
who treated me with great
kindness. Persuaded Col
Brown to remain over one
day so as to go in the Hospital
Car to Louisville - and not
spend the Sabbath in Cincinnati
but on the boat up the river.
No particular news -
Very tired but quite well

Feb 5th 1864.

Passed the day very pleasantly.
Called on Mr. Brown, on Baldy, on
Constock &c. Made an agreement
to meet Whorton at the S.W.
St. Nicholas School between six and
seven P.M. and to go out to
spend the evening with him.
Took dinner with Baldy, Constock
&c. Had a very pleasant time indeed.
Had a long talk over matters of
all kinds.

Called to bid Col Brown good
bye. Whorton with me for as he
expected to leave at 7 am on the
Hospital train.

Found Whorton at appointed
place. Made our call on Nick and
then went out to his friends
and put up for the night.
Had a splendid time - in
every respect.

No news during the
day. I made arrangements to
have Col McCallum take the

bids for the London Bridge
Three bids to be made -
Gul Front as kind as ever

Feb 6th 1864.

Returned to the St Cloud
at 7 AM. and much to my
surprise found Mr Valentine.
Col Brown did not get off on the
train for the Hospital cars had
not arrived. Took breakfast at
the Donnegana Saloon - a
good breakfast only cost \$8.50⁰⁰
for three rather cheap.

Went to see Col Brown he
was a little put out but
bore it well. Called on Col

McCollum. Think the cars
will run to London from Chatter-
nargo by Thursday or Friday.
Col Lord at work having been
put in charge of all ^{forifications}
R Roads in the Mill Div of the
Miri. and has a great Responsi-
bility on his hands.

Visited Poe, Webb &c and all the
officers at Gul Front. Had tea. Received
my order from Col Brown. Brown
feeling quite uneasy. He
could not keep himself. I gave up
the idea of really starting until
Tuesday.

Some of Gul Schofield's
staff passed through Nashville.
Passed the day pleasantly quite
so. Went to the theatre but it
was so full that I could
not obtain a seat so I came
back in disgust.

Constock at the Hotel. also
Miguel McDermott of 4th Cor. Plummer
&c, Retired early. No news

various lying rumors about
affairs at Knoxville. Some
stories about Sherman being
at the Big Black.

Retired early much fatigued
Health fine.

Wharton left for Chollavogue

February 7th 1864.

Col Brown left seven am.
I rose early. Went to the
Postmaster for a pass and
went up to take breakfast
at Genl W Smith's. and found
much to my surprise that
Genl Grant was there and
also May (Tiff) Hopper.
I concluded to go and get

my things from the Melvins
and stay with Comstock.
Went to the office after breakfast with
Genl Grant and Comstock.

Had a pleasant talk with Grant.
When Genl Grant asked me to go
and ride in a buggy after his
fine horse. I did so, and after
a long walk to find the buggy
we had a very pleasant ride.
Genl talked very kindly and very
confidentially to me. Talked about
Mr Donelson - Vicksburg the Future.
Affairs about Knoxville &c.

He said he hoped to put W Smith
in command of the A. & P. so
that he should have someone
there to co-operate with him.
It had been promised and he
expected as soon as a May Genl
could be disposed of he
expected W would be made
one to date from his original
appointment. Genl Grant said
if it were done he supposed

Paul W. would want
Bowen and myself I
hope it may become true.
Took my things to Comstock
room. Passed the evening
with Baldy & Poe;

Retired early.

Met Keough. McIntyre & at
the hotel and called once on
Mr. Broomer.

Feb 8th 1864.

Visited Col. McCollom. found
that the London Bridge was
contracted for \$63000⁰⁰ to be
done in 75 days. By Mr. Bristol
the other bids were 65 & 69000.
Made some purchases -
Called on Lepterson

with Keough.
Met out on horse back with
Keough - Had a little adventure
while riding in the city. Rather
a nice looking girl with an
elderly lady. Left one of the
imps of darkness to find out their
number but he failed me.

Rode out to Eckland's Place, on
a similar name. The scene
was killed in some of the
action path. It is a splendid
place. Inevitably though much
out of order now.

When we come to breakfast
in the morning found that
Paul Smith had gone to Cincinnati
to meet Mrs. W. Rather sudden
start. After our ride we took
a dinner at the Dominion
Saloon.

Then I went to Hill
again. Met Paul Grant and
Stoff. They invited me to
go to the theatre with them

which I did with much
pleasure. Miss Jones was the
Star and performed the
Bride of Hamamoor (?) and
Lady Sully's Secret.

The former of no account the
latter well done. Miss Jones
requested the Gail to remain
until the 2nd price.

Gail in good humor and
all very pleasant.

News from Knoxville of the
destruction of Thomas' Indians
at Oualletown, a good thing
rather delightful. Health
fine.

Feb 9th 1864.

Took breakfast with the Gail
called at the office. Obtained
my orders to leave, were all
as fine as could be asked
for. Went down to Post Office.
Obtained some maps.

Called on Mr. Brown & Clafflin -

Made some purchases about
town. Bids the people all
good bye and left for the depot
at 1.30. Mr. Clafflin gave me a
very fine lunch some Eau de vie,
and some Spiritus Frumenti.
Found Dr. Milder but no hospital
here so we walked to the
Oshun depot and left 3.30 PM.
McAlyre & Keneigh were at the
depot. Gail Gerrard (Kenneis) came
down with us.

Gail Gerrard repeated his instructions
to Thomas, to send not less
than ten thousand beside the
division of Genger, and
to bring along his ^{own} Artillery

Chorus, and three animals
to every 100 men - bring
no gun and to come
just as light as possible.
And to come himself. And
Grant expects to come himself
as an arbiter if any
dispute should arise about
commanders.

And Grant asked me whether
I thought he (Grant) had better
come up if Thomas should send
Hooker and not come himself.
I said yes!

Never was more kindly
treated than by all of Genl
Bente Staff. I hope some day
to be able to return their
kindness.

The cars were
crowded to overflowing
though I myself succeeded
in obtaining seats with
backs, and passed as
pleasant a time as we

could expect under the
circumstances. Took a supper
at Murfreesborough. It was late
in the evening that we
could not see the works
on town,
very fine but well. Nights
cool but clear.

Feb. 10th 1862.

Arrived in Chattanooga about
8:30 am. Took my things up
to Merrill - Met Moxey in the
car. Had breakfast with
Merrill - Called on Baylor
no troops reported. Found
the Kingston had arrived
and would leave in three
hours - Called on Genl Thomas

and had a chat with him
about again at Knoxville.

Found they expected to send
the cars to London Friday.

Col Easton recommended
notwithstanding that I should
come by the boat. But went
to Gen Wood. Bid the people
good bye went down to the
stern and found the
boat could not get to London
before late Friday night at
the best. Went up to Gen Wood.
Found a train would start
the next day for London at 1 P.M.
He was going on it. So I went
for my things, and came back
to go on the boat.

Called on Forsyth. Took tea
with Gen King, and then
started out with my call
on Merrill - then went to
McKee's, and then down to
Porter St. - with us. Had
a pleasant evening.

Myra arrived us about
12 A.M. Slept at Porter. A second
party of owls came but did
not see them.

Feb 11th. '64

Made some calls, took my things
to the cars at 1 P.M. Met, May Hoffman
at the depot, and an express man
took lunch at Porter. Had a key,
sent over but did not have time
to have it filled - Whorton Merice
off duty. Train did not
leave until towards 3 P.M.
an engine off the track in
the yard - Gen Wood pointed
out the fighting grounds of Sherman
and the 4th Corps. Indeed

I wonder at our Success in
such place. The RR was in
fine condition - The cars were
filled with people.

Ran up to Cleveland - reaching
that place about dark. Took
Dinner (L. usurb) on at station
below. Met some friends who
put us in a nice house -

Stomped creature we had to
fire up our train and move
all the people back. Col. Merwin
C. L. & Col. Stanley Dir. entertained
us. Capt. Pick O. M. and a pretty
body were there. Of course she
was frightened - He put up the
Dr. him with Col. Motere of
some Ind. (?) regt. who treated us
very kindly - gave Col. Brooks and
myself a bed - He turned in
about 1 am. and to get up at
5 am. Not much sleep - but no
attack on Cleveland as it was
reported would be -

Day delightful - and the

country passed over quite fine.
RR in good condition

Feb. 12th 1864.

Got up at 5 am. took breakfast
and started down to Cleveland.
where we remained about two
hours for no purpose - He took a
company of men onto the train to
protect us against guerrillas.
Cleveland is a very pretty little
place formerly of about 5000 inhab.
now about three. The Stone Stages
flying will be the same flag
taken down in 1861. It was
put up by the inhabitants.
He reached London about

12 M. Passing through Athens.
Spartanburg, Phil and one or
two other small towns.
The bridge is a trestle over the
Savannah. 300 feet long.
The country passed over is truly
beautiful. I think the finest part of
Tenn. Met Gen Granger. Sheridan -
etc at Loudon.

Train detained some
time but left Dickerson A.M.
but at last left at 3 P.M.

Reached Knoxville after dark.
Called to see Gen Schofield
and staff. Remained but
a short time.

Went home - and went to
bed as fully fatigued as I
ever was. I did not sleep well
so tired.

So after twelve days I am
back. I must say I have
enjoyed the time very much
- Perhaps never better. I
could have passed several

days more in Nashville

Feb 13th.

Found myself much rested
though still not myself -
Found Tolson & Van Ness here
returned - A large lot of papers
on hand - Visited Gen Schofield
had a long chat. Met Gen
Parker there. Went down with
Maj Wherry to see the bridge -
which is truly a fine thing.
It will not in my opinion
stay in longer than the first
high water. Told Maj Wherry

What I thought was the
feelings of some of our Gail
- and for me give us a
campaign soon or possible
Write a few letters and
remained quiet.

Weather delightful

rode around and saw the
work, some.

Sunday Feb 14th 1864
Did not go away - being
quite tired yet.

Wrote some letters, in place
of Valentine
Did not of course attend
Church.

Walked down and over
the bridge with Capt Wright
Saw Mr Cortis. He seemed
much astonished to think
the London bridge was left
to Contractor, and not
done by the O.M. Dept.
I give him a few hints

St Valentine's Day and
no Valentine.

No new graphs that Longstreet
is moving on Knoxville
Town filled with idle men.
Health fine.

Feb 15th.

Rainy better morning
- not very cold -
Put on my rubber and
went over to Hill Ore -
Paul Schofield has decided
not to move the puntoon
bridges to London - but to
put a steam ferry there
- This bridge here still
unfinished. Gail told
me his plan - but I

think his plan wrong. Not
extended enough - and
too much fear of Kearsarge,
It is our weak point is
a strategical sense.

River continued until
low water nights.
Studied up hill of lumber
to put on bridge.

Started the morning Genl
Schafeld desired -

Not cold enough at night
to ensure no more rain
but growing cold -

Health fine -

The 9th Corps moved across town and
put into the place of that portion of
the works vacated by the 23rd Corps.
Good day for changing camp.

Feb 16th 1864.

Weather changed - froze quite
hard so that the morning
is quite bitter. Did not
go out from the Hd Qrs

Had the morning finished
and sent it over to Genl
Schafeld.

Did little business and
write during the day.
Even.

Col Bickwith Col Porter
At and Capt Cushing all of
the Com of Sub. Dept arrived.
I went over to with Capt Wright
to see them at Col Barrigan
Office a Mr Wright also accom-
panied them.

They were all happy.
Left them at Genl Schafeld.
Porter brought me up the
key of whisky. Thanks many thanks.
Did not see them again.
Unionist Wright is going to
put a "trotty bridge" into the
river at Louisa for use of
the R.R. until the permanent
bridge can be completed.
It will go out in case of high
water and drift wood.

Weather fine but very cold
Health fine
Rumor that Longstreet is to leave this
place again. Porter told me that some
change had taken place below and the
military men on their way here much
diminished - -

Feb 17th 64.

Continued on the
same routine of duties.
Went over to the Bu and
saw all the officers.

Noted very politely by
them, sent in my
bill of lumber for postern
bridge.

Weather fine. Cold weather
continued. The Commissioner
went back towards
London. Longstreet seemed
to be going towards the
Rocky Mountains. The
truth is but little is known
of him, and the town is

filled with constant rumors
all the time about Longstreet.
The stories are as idle as they
are vague.

Longstreet is not foolish enough
to take ~~that~~ step I believe.

Feb 18th. 64.

But little done. was about
the town some -

Col Cassinick arrived about
8 PM. from Nashville. Brought
no news. Called on Genl
Schofield with him - Had a
very pleasant evening.
Sent word to the 1st Dir that
it would be inspected at
12 on 19th. by brigade.

Nothing definite at all from
Longstreet or his command

Feb 9th 1864.

Pleasant morning - met
Gen Comstock at Gen Schafeldt
to go to the inspection. Inspected
the 1st Div. Col. Morrison,^{3 Regt}
then 2nd Div. Col. Pierce & Regt
then 1st Div. one Dragoon Col Collins
and then Gillingham Batteries
L & M. U.S. Artillery.

The men generally in good fighting
condition. The 27th Mich and 2nd Md.
in rather poor condition some
of the men without overcoats.
and some of the 2nd Md have
not suitable shoes, and
complain that they cannot get
them. The companies we inspected
were in good condition
though entirely new.

The horses in Gillingham Batteries
are very poor though appear
thinner than good growing
and Lt. thinks they can endure
considerable fatiguing work.

The Veteran Regiment are in
rather poor condition though
they would have been if they
had not expected to have left
for home before this.

The General appearance of the troops
was good though not as fine
as I wished it might be.
Returned by way of Gen Miller's.
He. Our pleasant call -
Returned 4 P.M. Walked around
to Gen Col Brannigan's office,
and saw the Col and
Capt Dickerson.

Went to bed quite early, being
quite tired.

No news from any source
outside or inside - No mail.

Feb 20th 1864.

Weather clear and some warmer.
Col Comstock went to inspect
the 3rd Div 4th Ab. Bn. Genl Woods.

I did not visit Col Orr.

Went down to the wagon bridge
which is still incomplete. Mr
Cortis is raising it so as to
get it above high water mark.
It is a poor concern, indeed.

Made good progress with my pontons.
The Steam Mill is furnishing
very fine material 30' long.

Fletcher hopes to make four or
8 a day as soon as he gets
started. If I can catch them
I hope to have the bridge done
by next Saturday night.

No definite news from Mr Longstreet.
A brigade of Infantry said to be
at Flat Creek in camp.

Genl Harkall went on a reconnois-
sance. Six miles driving the
Enemy's cavalry, with 300 of his
men. captured an adjutant

and nine men. Had three men
wounded. I believe Longstreet is
about leaving with at least a
portion of his command. I
may be mistaken. Rumor that
all of the force below have been
killed, for some good reason of
course. Enemy (Army cavalry) -
appeared on the Clinton Road -
attacked a train Cars were repulsed.
Received letter from home -
No other news from any source.
Health fine.

Feb 21st.

Did but little except look after
my boots.

Genl Schofield sent for
me and wished to know
of the country about Flat Creek

I was unable to give him
any information of value.

Had a severe snow
storm though of short
duration. The sun came
out, and ^{the snow} disappeared about
as soon as it fell.

Gen Schofield anticipated
a dash on the ice at
Flat Creek but this is unlikely.
Gen Lonsman intends
making a run towards
Seymourville.

Did not attend church -
Leonstock inspected the
4th Corps that is Wood Div.
Lt Twining arrived in
the evening - No news
except that Sherman was at
Meridian on the 11th - Good,
Health fine

Feb 22^d 1864.

Anniversary of Washington
Birth day & the battle of Buena
Vista.

Went to the Mill and
bridge with Twining. Went
also to see Gen Schofield and
stop with him.

Gen Schofield promised to
relieve me from the duty
of Chief Clerk, thank God for
that for under the present
staff arrangements it is
an unpleasant staff to serve
on under any circumstances
what.

Went out to Belldier
Camp to inspect some property
- found a large number of
unserviceable horses - and
some Ordnance ~~and~~ property.

Leonstock inspected another
Div of the 23rd Corps.
Completing his inspection
report

Attended a dinner party
with Judge & Capt Van Ness -
Genl. Parke, Potter, Milcox.

Tenor - Capt Dickerson Col Comstock
Capt Jones & Capt Lewis -

Had plenty of liquor and a
very fine dinner indeed

Dinner only till 10 P.M.

Stoneman started towards
Sincerville with 2000 Infants at
12 am. Pettit went with
him.

Received letter from Reese -

Health fine; Day clear
and beautiful.

Feb 23rd 64.

Comstock left on the
morning train also Dr
Kettie - I went to the

cars with them.

Comstock was on a tour
of inspection more to find
out the standing of the
officers than the men. He
found the men generally
pretty well off.

Had various rumors
about town though nothing
to be relied on - until Col
Stoneman's troops came back.
They went out through the
gap in the mountain, and
found that the enemy had
disappeared across the French
Brook - leaving their camp at
9 am of the 22nd.

Their camp fire were still alive
The reports are as conflicting
as usual as to their desti-
nation. Some say Johnson saw
the Confederates other say Mr
Several rumors about the enemy
having been defeated by Meade etc.

Continued the work on the pontoon bridge. Made but slow progress on account of deficiency of lumber.

Gen Schofield sent for me in the evening informed me that he intended to move out at daylight with all but one division Gen Hooker. Towards Strawberry Plain - to ascertain if possible where the enemy had gone and to prevent any side move towards Rip or Middle Ten. Directed me to remain here and hurry up the pontoon train. No particular news from north. Rebel rumor that Sherman had passed Meridian - and that the Rebel had been defeated in a slight skirmish -
Mother join - Health &c.

Feb 24th 1864.

Troops moved out about 7 am - Head Quarters left about nine. Various stories in town, one that Sulywith with the 6th Ab. was in Longstreet's rear. Another that the Major sent up had burned the Potomac Bridge at Jollycoffer &c &c ad infinitum. I attended to my boat party and wondered about the place with Wright's Swining, who like myself had been left behind. He not even having been informed of the move at all and did not know it until I told him.

Gen Schofield telegraphed from Flat Creek that no enemy was to be found - and that the indications are that they have gone to Va -

Directed Swining to come up, and me to send up all the pontoon boats I have done

Genl. Hatcher and Bill who
obtained transportation to the
Carr and took up their
boats (all I had) to the Carr
and loaded them - also seats
40-60 each.

A pretty hard night work.
Some indication of a storm
yet weather remained clear
No news, Genl. Schofield
is to rebuild the Strawberry
Plain Bridge (RR).
Health excellent.

Feb 25th 1864.

Orders to send up camp and
garrison supplies etc. The
whole command to go up
to Strawberry Plain.

Continued my bridge with
but ^{little} progress though - no blacksmith-
ing yet. Some better prospects for
tomorrow.

Several officers returned
from Strawberry Plain - All inform
me that the Strawberry RR bridge
is as I left it - No worse.
The enemy put a good bridge
over at Flat Creek which they
did not destroy.

I had a talk with a deserter a
Mr Jones - who tells a very intelligent
story. He was of the opinion that
they were going to reinforce Johnson.
I learned from him the fact
that the timber for the RR bridge
is lying at Friedville 8 miles from
Strawberry Plain.

Von Meuse returned during
the evening - Genl. Schofield also.
Genl sent for me gave me
the job to put a bridge in at
Strawberry Plain immediately after
three days - He indicated a

move towards Bristol. but did
not give me the permission.
Had quite a talk with him.
Had a communication from
Gen Porter to send Mr Carter with
his men and tools to St Plain.
Capt Whitman sent my commu-
nication ^{back} to me with a very
foolish and insubordinate. I
showed it to Gen Schofield -
No news from outside -
Hutchings and Biddle stayed ~~at~~
me. over night.

Feb 26th 1864.

Continued work on the
pontoon bridge, nearly
completing the 22 boats

needed for the bridge at
Strawberry Plain.

Gen Schofield remained in
town. Sent Mr Hatcher and
Mr Bell to Strawberry Plain to
locate pontoon bridge and to
grade the road.

Mr Carter went up with his
bridge men.

Gen Porter sent word to
me to come up if Gen Schofield
had not given me different
orders. Gen Baker me to remain
here - also to rebuild the RR
bridge at Strawberry Plain.
No news here from any
source. Col Biddle left for
Indianapolis in the morning.
Capt Wright sent me word
that troops were to move tomorrow
morning with fifteen days ration.
Gen Schofield said they would
only cross the River - on the
27th.

Hell's fire weather delightful

Feb 27th 1864.

Continued work on pontoon bridge
Put teams to hauling the boats
and road way to depot. Made
very poor progress. Poor detail
and poor success.

Took up the pontoon bridge to
get material for my Strawberry
Plain bridge.

Mr Fletcher remained at St. Louis
to assist in fixing the ferry.
He came down on train - also
Mr Twining (Lt). The ferry
worked finely much better
than they anticipated. The
capacity of the boats is more
than we anticipated.

At high or 30 men passed over
in one of them at a time.

The Genl much pleased. With
the two lines at each ferry
one to go over on and the
other to return on they passed
over 2000 men per hour with
seven boats.

all the infantry over by
2 P.M. Artillery and wagon
forded the river.
Ordered a train to be ready at
day light to take up my boats.

Feb 28th 64.

Sunday. Mr Fletcher went to Strawberry
Plain with the pontoon.
Some of the material still
at depot. Detail failed to report
- asked for one at 6.30 one
tomorrow. Advance of our
force as far as New Market.

No news from enemy. No mail.
Called on Skiff - some what
sick - Rather a dull day.

indications of rain - No
paper. Note to H.W. Wheeler -
did not work on pontoon
health fine.

Feb 29th 1864

Heavy rain most of the
night. Went to depot at 8 AM.
Remains of bridge not loaded
no detail there - detail arrived
8:45 AM. Could not take the
stuff on train.

St. Twining sent to plain
I did not go.

Sent material up by train
in afternoon. Commenced
putting in the bridge so as
to complete it soon as the
rest of the material should
be sent up there.

Did not go up at all -

Sent telegram to Twining
to let me know progress.

No news from front.
Rain ceased towards night
and indications were that the
storm was over. But it ~~did~~
in again before morning.
Received letter from Hunt.
Health fine.

March 1st 1864

Went to Flat Creek on my way. The
strawberry plain found the ^{bridge} ~~are~~ there
down, or nearly so. It was on old
pole tracks and the water carried
it away. I remained at Flat Creek to
see if I could do anything, and
finally returned to hurry up some
pieces for the bridge.

St. Twining completed the pontoon
bridge and it worked well.
Rain continued very hard all
day. Water in river rising
very rapidly. St. Twining sends

would that he needs three more
boats - I have no lumber to make
them of. Genl Potter telegraphs that
it will be necessary for me to
go to Strawberry Plains - so I made
preparations to go the next day.

No news from any source

Am very sorry for the delay in
pontoon bridge, but cannot help
the matter at all

Health good -

Rain stopped at dusk. night
cool - some ice.

March 3rd 1864

Went to Strawberry Plains, on
train. Genl Potter with me,
breathed from Flat Creek - took
the R.R. and soon reached
the Plains.

Found part of the bridge up
and almost if not quite
impossible to put it down.

Not boats enough. One had been
stolen, the anchor not heavy
enough - and not enough
rope at the Plains. Kept at work
at it all day made out a
foot bridge by 4 PM. Had two
lines across. Water had risen
ten feet and still rising. I sent
for another pontoon. No more had
been completed, one old one sent
up to me. Indications that the
river have not left Tenn, but still
hold Bull Gap and are in strong
force at Greenville Tenn. A serious
disaster would befall us if they
should come back with force
and drive Genl Schofield back
onto Strawberry Plains and no
bridge there. Still I cannot help
the matter. Took dinner with
Vannure, rode to Flat Creek
and came on the engine to
Greenville. Came down in less
than an hour. Genl Potter came
also. Saw Col. Ransom and

Bossier. More lumber ordered
I ordered six pontoons (O.S.) to
be sent by the morning train
and some small rope

The water still rising.

The day clear and delightful.
Cables parted and bridge had
to be taken up to save the
material. Indications of a return
of our troops -

No particular news.
Very tired at night - and very
much disgusted
No mail

March 30th 1864

Started for Strawberry Plains.
Met Gen Potter at depot. found
out about the pontoon bridge.
Mr Tolfer making very poor
progress towards getting the

old pontoon to the river.
Got an order for a cable to
be sent up. to replace the one
at Strawberry Plains. Gen Potter
sent the train off before it
arrived at the depot. so I
had to wait at R. until evening
train. Saw Ransom and
Bossier. Went up on the
pontoon in the evening, taking
the cable also.

Did not get the cable up from
Flat Creek to G.P. until 9 P.M. gave
up the idea of commencing
the bridge that night. Ordered the
details to be there at day
light. Put up with Capt Von Me.
Found Fletcher & Swinney quite tired.
No news from the pont. Indica-
tion of an advance on the
part of the Rebels.

No news from abroad - The
rumor are that Sherman
occupies Selma Ga - I hope it
is so. The bridge at Flat

Creek progressing slowly.
Two days will finish it.

Bridge at Strawberry Plain moving
has very little progress
Health fine Beautiful day.

March 4th 1864.

Started at the pontoon bridge as
day light - good but a small
detail. First put the cable across

and commenced the bridge

Had in ready for team at 11:30.

Passed all train both ways -

Capt Schofield arrived just in time
to cross the bridge. Had just
boats enough to complete it without
a surplus boat. It had no
side rail still it passed all
train very well indeed.

Turning and Fletcher very
tired. Mr Talbot very tired
inattention to our wants

Came down on the evening
train. Capt Schofield and and staff
came down.

Received letter from Mr Valentine

Col B down will - No news
about the 9th Corps going East.
- Heard of Seymour's defeat in
Fla. rather bad. Capt Voydes
to take his place.

Boat put up with me -
Some indication of storm in
evening - Some gale of wind
at night.

March 5th 64.

Remained in town all day.
Saw Capt Schofield and
most of the staff.

Ordered the new boats.
Had the other boats fin-
ished. Very little going
on in town. all as quiet
as possible. No news

Except the return of Gen
Smith (W. G.) Cavalry command
to Memphis. I fear this may
be a serious blow to Gen
Sherman. But I hope not.

Mr Tolfor reports the bridge in
fine condition at Draw-
berry Bluff.

My Carriage arrived from
Buxton. I took a ride out to
call on Mr Armstrong and
offered him the use of my
horse and carriage, as a
favor to Gen. Miller.

Beautiful day; very quiet.
Health never better.

Sunday March 6th 1864
Twining and myself
proposed to go to Strawberry
Plain together.

We did nothing during
the day. Called on May P.
Wherry &c. on our way to

the 3.30 train, and
arrived at the depot in
time to see the cars leave.
Took tea with Twining.
Capt Fry Q. M. 23rd Ab. Regt.
the evening with us.
Brought his guitar, and
con sing and play about
as well as I can -
fine day. Gen Schofield
still in Knoxville - no news
from the enemy.

March 7th 1864.
Wrote a letter to Gen W. G. Smith.
Tried to get my baggage sent
up to Strawberry Plain, but
failed. Promised Fletcher
order in proper form.
Fletcher to leave by the next
train (4 am 8th). No reliable
news from any source.

indications that Longstreet
is still recovering.
Swining went to Strawberry
Plain, and returned in
the evening. Bridge in good
condition.

Wrote a little on my Myr
Memoirs, though I made
but little progress.

